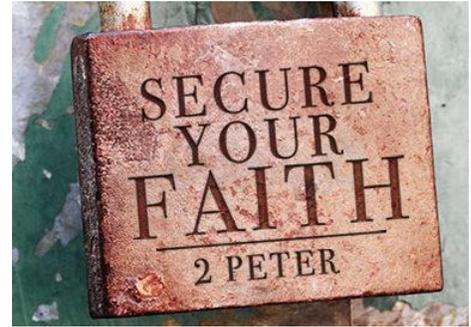


Discussion Guide

October 23, 2016

2 Peter 2:10-16; Jude 17-23



Icebreaker: What are you most passionate about? Why?

Last week we saw the judgment of false teachers and the rescue of the godly. This week Peter gives a lengthy description of the character of the false teachers

Read 2 Peter 2:10-14.

[Q] What are the sins that identify the false leaders in Peter's churches?

*Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.
Matthew 7:15 (ESV)*

[Q] What sins describing false teachers do you find particularly awful? Why? How can we guard against pride in ourselves as we think or talk about false leaders?

The false leaders of Peter's generation are incredibly arrogant—even angels wouldn't claim as much authority as they do (2 Peter 2:10-11)

[Q] How do these sins act as indicators of false leaders to us today? How is being a false teacher more than just bad theology?

Read 2 Peter 2:15-16.

[Q] What do you think Peter means by "forsaking the right way"? (ESV)

As an example of forsaking the right way, Peter uses the story of Balaam, a prophet who was schooled by a donkey, sold his gift for profit and helped to lead the Israelites astray. (Numbers 22-24 and 31:16)

Here's an explanation regarding Balaam from the weekend message:

[Balaam] instigated the men of Israel participating in the worship of Baal, the god of the Moabites which included out-of-bounds sex with Moabite women. When I say 'out-of-bounds' I mean WAAY out-of-bounds. This happened at a place called Peor. So, Baal Peor became synonymous with extreme sexual license. But there was another Baal that required child sacrifice, Baal Molech. Basically there was a Baal that represented every dark and depraved side of human nature. (Continued on next page.)

Quote continued:

This is what Jesus condemned when He said to the church in Pergamum:

But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality... Therefore, repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth. (Revelation 2:14-16 ESV)

[Q] Why do you think Peter delves so deeply into the depravity of the false teachers?

[Q] In what ways must we be careful when labeling someone a false teacher?

Read Jude 17-23.

[Q] List what Jude recommends to Christians in the face of scoffers and unbelievers (vv. 20-21). How are you doing following his advice?

[Q] What would “building yourselves up” (ESV) mean for you this week? Be specific.

[Q] From Jude 22-23, describe how to have mercy on those who doubt:

[Q] Do you have a heart for doubters? Who can you extend God’s mercy to this week?

Pray for those who need Jesus’ mercy.

Resource for information on cults and world religions: probe.org

Upcoming class: Is Mormonism part of the Christian faith? Find out what the Bible says in comparison to what Mormons believe. Three Sundays beginning October 23 at 11:15 a.m., Room 305, Avon Campus. Led by Pastor Jerry Costley, no registration needed.

Community Service Day is Saturday, November 19. Stay tuned for more information.